



# THE PARKS REPORT

A Monthly Summary of Birmingham's System of Parks & Recreation Facilities



## Park Board

- Montal Morton  
*President*
- Carly Miller  
*Vice President*
- Carol E. Clarke
- Larry D. Cockrell
- Ronald D. Mitchell
- Shonae' Eddins-Bennett  
*Director*

Est. 1923

*"The most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."*

—Mark Twain



Photo courtesy: Birmingham Park and Recreation

Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority staff members Adrian Cleckler Collins and Jay Logan introduce Birmingham Park and Recreation employees to Mason's Place, their recently opened inclusive playground, located in Sokol Park.

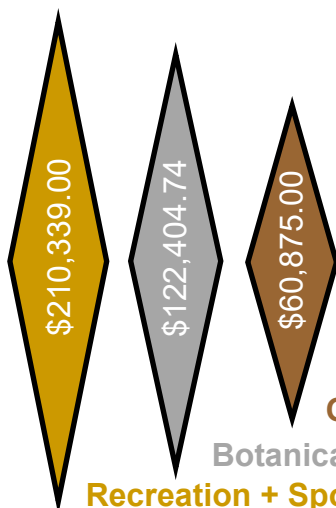
*I to r: Charles Brundidge, Jay Logan, Marcus Turner, Ronald Hicks, Shonae' Eddins-Bennett, Adrian Cleckler Collins.*

## Inclusive Playgrounds Offer Fun for All

Several members of the Birmingham Park and Recreation staff recently traveled to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to get a first-hand glimpse of what a quality inclusive playground could mean for children of the city of Birmingham.

Mason's Place, located in Sokol Park, is Tuscaloosa's answer to providing a place for children of all ages and all abilities to play together. The \$1.9 million first phase (of three) provides a spacious play area that allows children of all abilities to share the simple yet profound joy of playing together. When complete, Mason's Place will be the largest inclusive playground in the state.

"We have such diverse communities who want and need to share in the enjoy-see **Inclusive Playground**, page 2



January - December 2021  
Reservations Combined Total

**\$393,618.74**

Open Parks: \$600.00

Botanical Gardens: \$9,457.75

Recreation + Sports Facilities: \$13,520.00

## East Lake Park



**December Revenue Totals**

Photo courtesy: Birmingham Park and Recreation

# TAKE A #WALK2022

**3 Sites  
to Keep Your 2022  
Resolution on Track...**

**Birmingham Botanical Gardens**  
2612 Lane Park Road  
67.5 Acres

**Rotary Trail**  
15 South 20th Street  
20th Street South - 24th Street South

**East Lake Park**  
8101 4th Avenue North  
60.22 Acres



*Summer Camp 2022!*

**Girls and Boys  
Ages 5 to 12**

**Registration Starts  
Soon!**

Call 205-254-2303

## Parks Maintenance Report



FYI: In the month of December, Park Maintenance staff cut 211 acres of green space, removed 1,422 bags of trash from parks and disposed of 2,879 tons of debris in the landfill.

## Inclusive Playground, continued from page 1

ment of our park system,” said Shonae’ Eddins-Bennett, director of Birmingham Park and Recreation. “A playground similar to this can offer the type of inclusion that truly makes us of service to all children,” continued Bennett.

The idea of an inclusive playground is often categorized as a place only for those with disabilities, which couldn’t be further from the truth; indeed, cities that build inclusive environments encourage experiences that provide for the physical and social needs of patrons of all ages and abilities. Many park visitors may have a disability that is not readily visible. That said, children of all abilities will grow in mutual respect and have the same opportunities to play in inclusive parks to the fullest extent of their ability.

“We see the success of Mason’s Place and other inclusive playgrounds in surrounding municipalities and their ability to serve their public in a very impactful and intentional way,” said Carol E. Clarke, city councilor and park board commissioner, “our commitment to our residents can be no less.”

Birmingham Park and Recreation plans to construct its yet-to-be-named inclusive playground in Bessie Estell Park, 901 8th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The percentage of children with a disability in the United States increased between 2008 and 2019, from 3.9 percent to 4.3 percent. The highest prevalence rates were observed in the South and the Northeast.\*

\* CDC and Disability & Health